(b) whether the paints available in Indian markets contain high-level of lead-a metal that is known to adversely affect health in several ways; and

(c) measures taken to ensure availability of health friendly paints in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has set standards for various kinds of paints. Manufactures are granted licences after checking each product sample and after the same confirms to the set standards. BIS have set 27 standards categorized as "A", "B" and "C" for Paints, Varnishes and Related Products. In the case of paints which are categorized as A, the limit for lead content is < 0.03% while for Category B, the limit for lead content is 0.03% to <0.1%. For Category C, the limit for lead content has been identified as >0.1% to <4.18%.

BIS has constituted Paints, Varnishes and Related Products Sectional Committee to review these 27 standards including the limits of lead content keeping in view the curent technology, market demand, commercial viability, ecological aspect, safety aspect & health concerns etc. BIS is in the process of preparing draft revisions on these 27 standards and would be circulating to all stakeholders for obtaining comments before its finalization.

Patent filings in India

1632. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patent filings by residents per million population in 2004-05 and comparative figure with world average;

(b) the number of patents in force in 2004 in India, world average and in China;

(c) whether the Government is aware that India accounts for only one out of 800 patents in the world; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts taken to strengthen the process that help creation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in India that provides the critical supports for the overall innovation culture, and newer and superior products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The total number of patent filings by residents in India per million population was 3.40 in 2004-05 as compared to the world average of 250.72 worked out on the basis of the world population (6377.6 million) as per data given in the *State of World Population 2004; United Nations Population Fund Report* and the number of patents filed worldwide during 2004 (15,99,000) as per data given in *World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2006 Edition.*

(b) The number of patents in force in India in 2004 was 6,406, while it was 1,82,385 in China. The world average of patents in force in 2004 was 846.71 worked out on the basis of the world population (6377.6 million) as per data given in the *State of World Population 2004: United Nations Population Fund Report* and the number of patents in force worldwide during 2004 (5.4 million) as per data given in *World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2006 Edition.*

(c) There were a total of about 5.6 million patents in force worldwide in 2005 as per ***World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Report: Statistics on Worldwide Patent Activity, 2007 Edition.*** However, this number includes patents obtained in different countries for the same invention also. Therefore, it will not be feasible to draw a conclusion on the proportion of patents in force in India *vis-a-vis* those in force worldwide. However, the number of Patents in India in force was 6857 in 2005.

(d) The efforts made by the Government to strengthen the processes that help creation of Intellectual Property Rights in India are as under:

(i) A scheme of Modernisation of Intellectual Property offices at a cost of Rs. 153.00 crore was implemented during the 9th and 10th Five Year Plans for Infrastructure development, computerization, human resource development and training and awareness.

(ii) Four new integrated Intellectual Property Offices were set up in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

(iii) Work for the setting up of the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management at Nagpur has commenced.

(iv) E-filing of Patent applications has been made operational with effect from 20th July, 2007.

(v) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at national and international level have been organized for creating awareness and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vi) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed between India and France, United States of America, United Kingdom, European Patent Office, Japan, Switzerland and Germany for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

Extending provisions of IDR Act to tiny cigarette units

1633. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that manufacture of cigarettes are under compulsory licensing under the industrial policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some small units are producing cigarettes without obtaining Industrial Licence and the Industries Development and Regulation (IDR) Act, many times leading to unscrupulous activities;

(c) whether Government proposes to remove this lacuna by extending the provisions of IDR Act to every unit including the tiny ones; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 licence to manufacture cigarette is required by factories where for